GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1846
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
NAXAL THREAT TO TIGER RESERVES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naxalites are destroying the tiger reserves in the country according to the Wildlife Institute of India's latest tiger census report as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 18, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of tigers in these reserves in areas affected by Naxalites; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the tiger reserves from the Naxalites?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) While Naxalites have been reported by several tiger reserve States, their presence to the extent of affecting the day-to-day management has come to light in Indravati (Chattisgarh) and Palamau (Jharkhand) Tiger Reserves.

(c) The steps taken for protecting tiger and other wild animals in tiger reserves are at Annexure-I. However, since problems relating to extremist engineered disturbances are of policing as well as social in nature, efforts have been taken to elicit local public support for conservation, which, interalia, include ecodevelopment package, ecotourism and antipoaching operations involving local workforce to provide livelihood options to stakeholder people.